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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJ: JORDAN ARMS

REF: DAO MAP 060630Z AUG 73

1. BELIEVE FIVE SPECIAL REFTEL REQUESTS OF KING SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN CONTEXT OF PAST AND PENDING MAP PROGRAMS IN JORDAN. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS EFFORT BY USG BE RESPONSIVE TO JORDANIAN NEEDS AT TIME OF GROWING CONSTRAINTS ON BOTH AVAILABILITY AND FUNDING FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

2. BELIEVE AT THIS POINT YOU SHOULD ELABORATE FOR KING EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT USG MAKING TO MEET JORDANIAN NEEDS
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THIS YEAR. CONGRESS HAS NOT YET VOTED A BILL. THE SENATE AUTHORIZATION FOR MAP MATERIAL CALLS FOR 420 MILLION DOLLARS AND THE HOUSE AUTHORIZATION FOR 550 MILLION DOLLARS. PROBABLE COMPROMISE IS LIKELY TO BE UNDER 500 MILLION

DOLLARS WHICH SHOULD BE COMPARED TO ADMINISTRATION REQUEST OF 652 MILLION DOLLARS. AS RESULT, WE HAVE HAD TO TRY TO PROJECT WHERE CUTS WOULD BE MADE.

3. AT MOMENT USG HAS AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE ONLY 123 MILLION DOLLARS IN FIRST QUARTER. FIRST PRIORITY IS GOING TO CAMBODIA FOR A SHOOTING WAR. THE NEXT LARGEST CHUNK IS GOING INTO F5E AIRCRAFT, FOR JORDAN AND KOREA. NO OTHER

EQUIPMENT FOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IS BEING FUNDED IN THIS QUARTER. REMAINDER GOES TO TRAINING, PCHT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. THE SECOND QUARTER PROMISES EVEN LESS LATITUDE OF CHOICE.

4. DESPITE MANY DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, THE USG IS PREPARED TO DIVERT FROM INVENTORIES OF ITS OWN AIR FORCE ONE C-130B AIRCRAFT. THIS AIRCRAFT WOULD BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR RECONDITIONING AND BE EXACTLY LIKE THE AIRCRAFT NOW IN RJAF INVENTORY. IF AMBASSADOR FEELS APPROPRIATE AND CONSISTENT WITH DISCUSSION REPORTED IN AMMAN 4749, HE MAY INFORM KING THAT WE PLAN APPLY TO C-130B 2.1 MILLION DOLS PROGRAMMED IN FY 73 RPT 73 FOR HELICOPTERS. THESE MAP FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR REPROGRAMMING AS RESULT KING'S HELICOPTER CANCELLATION AND ARE SUFFICIENT TO FUND C-130B WHICH COSTS APPROXIMATELY 1.3 MILLION DOLS. THIS INCLUDES COST OF AIRCRAFT, RECONDITIONING, AND ONE SPARE ENGINE. FYI. 2.3 MILLION DOLS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR BALANCE OF UH1H'S IN FY 74 RPT 74 IS NOT RPT NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED FY 74 MAP APPROPRIATION SHORTAGES. END FYI. EXCHANGE OF C-119'S IS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE. MAP FUNDS TO REHABILITATE THESE AIRCRAFT HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN SPENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER MAP PROGRAM IN WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE USED, THUS FREEING FUNDS FOR JORDAN. IN VIEW JAF PROBLEMS WITH 3 C-119S AND O AND M BURDEN TO MAINTAIN THEM, U.S. WILL PROBABLY WISH TO REPOSSESS THEM FOR DISPOSAL PURPOSES.

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5. WE HOPE (ALTHOUGH THIS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN AT THIS TIME) TO BE ABLE TO FUND FULL FY 74 COST OF F5E PACKAGE WHICH MIGHT COST AS MUCH AS 31.9 MILLION DOLS. FUNDING LAST SIX M60A1 TANKS IN FY 74 (AND 0.3 MILLION DOLS COMMO GEAR) WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE AFTER COVERING F5E PACKAGE. HOWEVER, BALANCE OF 32 FUNDED BUT UNDELIVERED TANKS, WHICH WE PREVIOUSLY ACCELERATED BY DIVERSION FROM USA UNITS, WOULD ARRIVE ON SCHEDULE. AS OF NOW, ALL TANKS (EXCEPT UNFUNDED SIX) WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO JORDAN WITHIN 6-7 MONTHS. FURTHER ACCELERATION OF M-60A1 TANK DELIVERIES HAS BEEN CONSIDERED, AS REQUESTED BY THE KING, BUT CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISRUPTIVE INTERRUPTION OF PRODUC-

TION LINE (SINCE JAF TANKS ARE WITHOUT ADD-ON STABILIZATION
- AOS - EQUIPMENT).

6. IN ADDITION TO FUNDS FOR F5E'S, USG PLANS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR TRAINING AND SUPPLY OPERATIONS. WE REGRET POSSIBLE SHORTFALL, BUT DO NOT VIEW IT AS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

7. POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF FY 74 PROGRAM SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST RECENT DELIVERIES OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES (EDA) (WHICH WERE VALUED AT 20.5 MILLION DOLS ACQUISITION COST IN FY 73) AND PROVISION OF 9 MILLION DOLS IN ADDITIONAL UNPROGRAMMED MAP THAT WE FURNISHED IN FY 72-73. LATTER INCLUDES ONE C-130B, ONE F-104B REHAB., 20 TWO AND ONE HALF TON TRUCKS, AND 5.4 MILLION DOLS IN SPARE PARTS. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED UNDER EDA WAS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO JORDAN DEFENSE, AND COMPLETELY OVER AND ABOVE REFUNDED MAP PROGRAMS. EDA ALLOCATED TO JORDAN IN FY 73 ALONE INCLUDED 1220 TRUCKS, 45 SELF-PROPELLED 40 MM GUNS, 6 CENTURION TANKS, SEVEN 26-FOOT BOATS, 297 TRAILERS, ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT LIKE SCRAPERS, LOADERS AND CRANES, GENERATORS, AMMO, COMMO SPARES, AND VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS. IN U.S. VIEW, MILITARY AID TO JORDAN HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED NOT DECLINED, OVER PAST FEW YEARS, IN LINE WITH INCREASE IN SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, WHICH HAS ALSO HELPED TO COVER GROWING MILITARY COSTS OF LAST THREE YEARS. IN LAST TWO YEARS JORDAN HAS BEEN CUT APPROXIMATELY 10 PER CENT AS OPPOSED TO WORLDWIDE PROGRAM CUTS OF 40 PER CENT. AT THIS POINT
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WE CANNOT TELL EXTENT OF WORLDWIDE CUTS IN FY 74 BUT WE EXPECT THEY WILL BE AS MUCH AS OR GREATER THAN IN PAST 2 YEARS.

8. IF ASKED, AMBASSADOR MAY SAY THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ALTERNATE HELICOPTER IN CONTEXT OF ON-GOING MAP PROGRAM. DISCUSSION CAN TAKE PLACE WITH JAF OFFICERS AT NEXT US-GOJ MILITARY CONFERENCE.

9. KING ALSO RAISED 2 QUESTIONS WHICH NOT TIED TO MAP FUNDING. ACCELERATION OF F5E DELIVERIES AND REPLACEMENT FOR SALADIN ARMORED CARS.

10. F5ES: FYI. ONLY FEASIBLE F5E SOURCES ARE PRODUCTION FOR IRAN, KOREA AND VIETNAM. DIVERSION OR LOAN FROM THESE COUNTRIES IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR COMPELLING MILITARY AND POLITICAL REASONS, AS WELL AS FOR TECHNICAL REASONS ARISING FROM PRODUCTION SCHEDULES AND INCOMPATIBILITY WITH JORDANIAN F5E CONFIGURATION AND GROUND SUPPORT FACILITIES. YOU SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE OR COMMENT ON THESE POSSIBILITIES. END FYI. YOU MAY INFORM GOJ THAT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES, WE UNFORTUNATELY HAVE NOT

BEEN ABLE FIND PRACTICABLE WAY TO ACCELERATE F5E DELIVERIES; FACT THAT JORDANIAN AIR FORCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE AIRCRAFT ONLY 4 TO 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF CURRENT DELIVERY SCHEDULE SEEMS MAKE IT ADVISABLE STICK TO PRESENT SCHEDULE. F5ES ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO COME OFF PRODUCTION LINE AND VIRTUALLY ALL OF FIRST YEAR'S PRODUCTION IS ALREADY COMMITTED.

11. USG HAS MADE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF KING FOR M-48A3 DIESEL TANK AS REPLACEMENT FOR 42 SALADIN ARMORED CARS. PROBLEM HERE HAS BEEN THE SAME AS REQUEST FOR DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR M-60 TANK. M48A3 WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM OPERATING U.S. TANK UNITS AT A TIME WHEN CUTBACKS IN PRODUCTION HAVE ALREADY MADE EQUIPMENT INVENTORY IN THESE UNITS UNACCEPTABLY LOW. WE WISH TO PROPOSE FOUR ALTERNATIVES, ALL THROUGH FMS CASH SALES: (A) AS EARLIER SUGGESTED, WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL JORDAN 40 M48A1 TANKS IN "AS IS" CONDITION FOR 21,870 DOLLARS EACH. THESE TANKS WOULD BE WITHOUT RADIOS AND MANY
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PARTS. WE RECOMMEND JAA ARMY OFFICERS SURVEY EXISTING INVENTORIES TO SELECT THE TANKS IN THE BEST CONDITION. (B) 40 FULLY RECONDITIONED M48A1 TANKS COMPLETE WITH RADIOS AND ALL ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT ABOUT 65,000 DOLLARS EACH WITH AVAILABILITY IN 12-18 MONTHS. (C) APPROXIMATELY 23 CADILLAC-GAGE ARMORED CARS COSTING ABOUT 170,000 DOLLARS EACH WITH 90 MM GUN. THIS VEHICLE IS A VERY CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OBSOLETE SALADIN, WOULD BEST FULFILL RECONNAISSANCE ROLE, AND COULD BE DELIVERED TO JORDAN WITHIN ONE YEAR. (D) APPROXIMATELY 20 M-48A3S WITH DELIVERY IN 35 MONTHS. USG HAS TAILORED COST OF THESE PACKAGES IN (C) AND (D) ABOVE TO APPROXIMATE AMOUNT JORDANIANS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FROM ABU DHABI FOR SALADIN ARMORED CARS (3.8 MILLION DOLLARS). PCHT, CSP AND ADMIN COSTS WOULD BE ADDITIONAL. RUSH

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